

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, Figs. 1 and 12 are amended to further clarify the features therein, claims 3, 5 and 6 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants; representative by Examiner Liou in the September 7, 2005 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on June 3, 2005. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to initial each of the references cited on the form PTO-1449 that was submitted with the June 3, 2005 IDS, and return the initialed and signed form PTO-1449 to Applicants' representative.

II. Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings as allegedly lacking the details of features indicated by reference numerals 101 to 113 of FIG. 1 and 116, 117 and 121 to 132 of FIG. 12. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The boxed sections shown in FIGS. 1 and 12 are used as mere symbols, and the features indicated by the boxed sections are clearly supported in detail in the embodiments explained in the original specification. Nonetheless, in order to expedite allowance of the application, Applicants herein amend Figs. 1 and 12 to include labels.

Applicants submit the requirements of the Patent Office have been met. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants herein amend claim 6 to recite a computer program for implementing an image editing device which trims an image. As acknowledged by Examiner Liou during the September 7, 2005 telephone interview, this rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 6. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,169,544 (Onoda) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,430,832 (Imaizumi); and rejects claims 4, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Onoda in view of Imaizumi and further in view of JP A 2001-126070 (Tanaka). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 5 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the applied references, in any combination.

The presently claimed invention provides an image editing device which can trim a noticing area, and provides a method for trimming an image. The image editing device according to claim 1 includes a noticing area calculating section, a trimming rule designating section, a trimming shape designating section, a template selecting section, a noticing area error calculating section, and an image processing section. The method according to claim 5 includes calculating a noticing area of an image, designating a trimming method for trimming the noticing area of the image which is the object for the trimming operation, designating a shape of a trimming scope when the designating operation of the trimming scope is selected by the trimming rule designating section; selecting a template which is used for the trimming operation among a template, calculating distribution ratio of the noticing area in the trimming scope or the template, and enlarging, contracting, and rotating the image, the trimming scope,

and the template so as to adjust the distribution ratio of the noticing area in the trimming scope or the template.

As described in the specification, after the trimming scope is designated and the template is selected by the template selecting section, the noticing area error is calculated according to human visual characteristics by the noticing area error calculating section; thus, it is possible to trim the image automatically. Also, the noticing area is trimmed desirably according to the designated trimming scope or the template by the image processing section. In addition, a user can designate the trimming scope in any desirable shape during using the trimming rule designating section 105 (see page 10, line 24 to page 11 line 13 of the specification).

Onoda, instead, discloses a device for disposing a plurality of photographs on a sheet automatically with desirable margins and adequate size. Furthermore, Imaizumi does not cure this deficiency. Imaizumi discloses a scanner for trimming only an image actually captured by an image capturing device (i.e., a camera) by deleting unnecessary scanned image (i.e., a scanned margin which makes noise around the captured image).

Thus, Onoda and Imaizumi fail to disclose the features of claims 1 and 5, and Tanaka fails to cure the deficiencies of Onoda and Imaizumi, as discussed above.

Tanaka, instead, discloses a device for extracting a noticing area from an original image by combining functions such that the noticing area is extracted in accordance with human sense of vision. Tanaka does not disclose adjusting the shape of the designated trimming scope and the distribution ratio of the noticing area in the template, as shown in FIGS. 9A to 10C of the present application.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Onoda, Imaizumi and Tanaka, in any combination, fail to render obvious the subject matter of claims 1 and 5, as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LMS/hs

Attachment:
Replacement Sheets

Date: September 8, 2005

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